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FLOOR DEBATE

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that true? And if so, a greater amount than what amount?

SENATOR JENSEN: We're in a very technical area, and there are a couple of different options that we could have taken. Nebraska, under the individual water systems, Nebraska would have to reduce their radon levels in drinking water to that MCL, or...of 300 picocuries. And this would affect approximately 50 percent of our 617 community well systems in our state. And to...for treatment of a small community water system of fewer than 500 people would cost about \$750,000 per system. And at that rate, the total cost to install treatment systems in Nebraska might be greater than \$400 million.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR JENSEN: For the smaller systems, that would exceed maximum contaminant levels for radon. Large systems would have increased costs, although the economic impact would be proportionately smaller. Now, again, the radon occurring in water is much less a health hazard than as it might occur in your home. And there are tests, of course, that you can get in your home to test the radon levels. And then the treatment for that actually is to evacuate that air to the outside. That will normally take care of that problem. It's only if you have a real sealed home that those levels cannot be removed. And so it's a matter of installing fans and exporting that air outside. That's what we do with the clean air.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And I will turn on my light again, because I think my time is up on this one. Thank you, Senator Jensen.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Chambers, you can continue.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Jensen, there is this ailment known as Legionnaires' disease. And the bacteria that causes Legionnaires' disease is also found in water, but until it's airborne, it doesn't create the problem. And it can be in the form of mist or dust or however. And then once it's taken into the system that way, it creates a form of pneumonia, or pneumonia-like symptoms, which can kill people. Is it possible for radon to be released from the water into the